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We can reasonably seek, in the relations of the body to the outer world, an explanation of the development of certain properties of cells which serve a useful purpose in mechanical and other injuries. These properties find application also in the normal life of the organism. Their exercise in response to injury imparts to inflammation important adaptive or protective characteristics, but I fail to see in this process any such special fitness as would justify extravagant statements which have been made to the effect that inflammation ranks among the adaptations of living beings by the side of digestion and respiration.

I have endeavored in this address to present certain general considerations concerning pathological adaptations. It has been possible to bring under consideration only a small part of an immense field, and this very inadequately. We have seen that in the sense in which adaptation was defined we can recognize in the results of morbid processes frequent and manifold evidences of adjustment to changed conditions. These adjustments present all degrees of fitness. Some are admirably complete; more are adequate, but far from perfect; many are associated with such disorder and failures that it becomes difficult to detect the element of adaptation. The teleological conception of a useful purpose in no case affords an explanation of the mechanism of an adaptive process. I have suggested that the adaptability of this mechanism to bring about useful adjustments has been in large part determined by the factors of organic evolution, but that in only relatively few cases can we suppose these evolutionary factors to have intervened in behalf of morbid states. For the most part the agencies employed are such as exist primarily for physiological uses, and while these may be all that are required to secure a good pathological adjustment, often they have no special fitness for this purpose.

The healing power of nature is, under the circumstances present in disease, frequently incomplete and imperfect, and systems of treatment based too exclusively upon the idea that nature is doing the best thing possible to bring about recovery or some suitable adjustment, and should not be interfered with, rest often upon an insecure foundation. The agencies employed by nature may be all that can be desired; they may, however, be inadequate, even helpless, and their operation may add to existing disorder. There is ample scope for the beneficent work of the physician and surgeon.

WILLIAM H. WELCH.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

#### THE NAPLES ZOOLOGICAL STATION.

THE Naples Zoological Station celebrated with adequate ceremonies on April 14th its twenty-fifth anniversary. The exercises of the day began at 10 o'clock in the morning by a delegation representing the students at work in the Station calling upon Dr. Dohrn and expressing to him their appreciation of the privileges which the Station afforded them. This delegation consisted of representatives of the German, Italian and English-speaking peoples, each short and pointed address being delivered in the language of the representative. Dr. Dohrn happily replied, beginning his speech in German, continuing it in Italian and closing it in English. This delegation then waited upon Dr. Hugo Eisig, who has, from the beginning, been Dr. Dohrn's first assistant.

Early in the day the entire Station fleet was anchored in the bay near the Station. This fleet consists of two small steamers, the *Johannes Müller* and the *Frank Balfour*, and six small fishing boats. In the midst of this small fleet was anchored the second-class cruiser *Fieramosca*, sent by the Italian government to do honor to the occasion.

At 2 p. m. all at present connected with

the Station, together with many friends and distinguished visitors, assembled in the lecture room of the Station to listen to the speeches prepared for the occasion. The room was beautifully and appropriately decorated. On each side of the speaker's stand were tables containing telegrams, letters and other documents conveying greetings and congratulations to Dr. Dohrn.

The speeches were delivered in German and Italian. The opening address was by Professor Todaro, of Rome, who was followed by Professor His. The latter gave some account of the history of the Station, emphasizing its usefulness in advancing biology. He was followed by Professor Waldeyer, of Berlin, who brought an address from the Berlin Academy of Sciences, and who mentioned with some feeling of pride that he was one of the first students in the Zoological Station, when its resources were small as compared with what they are to-day. The Syndic of Naples then presented Dr. Dohrn with the freedom of the city. The audience was then favored with a short address by Admiral Palumbo, Under Secretary of State, after which the Minister of Public Instruction presented Dr. Dohrn the 'Grand Ufficiale della Corona d'Italia,' and brought the congratulations of King Humbert.

The closing speech was made by Dr. Dohrn, who delivered it in German. This address was printed in Italian and copies distributed to members of the audience. Dr. Dohrn spoke pleasantly of the people of Naples and the many privileges given him by the city, making special mention of Professor Panceri, whose influence made it possible to place the Station in the beautiful park known as the *Villa Nazionale*. To the Italian and German governments he expressed his gratitude for the sympathy and aid the Station had received from these sources. On the strength of a petition signed by Helmholtz, Virchow and DuBois-

Reymond, the German Parliament granted to the Station an annual subsidy which has increased to about \$10,000 per year. The Academy of Sciences in Berlin, the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Smithsonian Institution were mentioned for their aid in maintaining several tables in the Station.

Dr. Dohrn referred with much feeling to the assistance given him by his father and also the father of Mrs. Dohrn, during the early years of the Station's history. Much credit was given to Mrs. Dohrn, who always gave her sympathy and aid to the interests of the Station. The money given her by her father to furnish her house was used to assist in maintaining the Station during the critical period of its history. Much praise was also given Hugo Eisig, who when a very young man cast his lot with Dr. Dohrn, and long before the Station was an assured success. His ability, energy and kind cooperation have contributed largely to make the Station what it is to-day.

After the exercises were over the students in the Station were taken on board the man-of-war. In the evening Dr. and Mrs. Dohrn entertained the distinguished visitors at tea, and thus ended one of the most pleasant and eventful days in the Station's history. On April 17th the students of the station gave Dr. and Mrs. Dohrn a dinner at Fusaro.

During the day the writer heard Dr. Dohrn express his delight at the success and usefulness of the Station; that while its present condition was all one could wish, his hope and aim was to see it placed on such a foundation that its future usefulness would be assured. It was with a feeling of pride that we listened to him refer so kindly to an American lady who had just written him that she was succeeding nicely in securing funds with which to endow a table in the Station.

The usefulness of the Station is so well

known to American biologists that it is useless for me to add anything in the way of a detailed description of its internal management, and yet this little account would seem very incomplete without some mention of Dr. Lo Bianco, whose knowledge of the plants and animals in the Bay of Naples, and whose skill in capturing animals and preparing them for study and for museum use is remarkable.

At present two tables in the Station are supported by American institutions (Columbia University and the Smithsonian Institution), but these are inadequate to meet the demands of American students who wish to make use of the Station's privileges. Thanks are due Dr. Dohrn, who always makes room for deserving American students when it is possible for him to do so. At one time during this year there were seven Americans in the Station; at present there are four. I believe I voice the sentiments of all Americans here at present, and those who have been here in the past, when I express the wish that provisions be made by Americans or American institutions for American students wishing to study here.

S. E. MEEK.

NAPLES.

#### *ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.*

THE sixty-eighth Anniversary Meeting of this Society was held on April 29th. After some preliminary business the Report of the Council on the proceedings of the Society during the past year was read by Mr. P. L. Sclater, F. R. S., the Secretary. It stated that the number of Fellows on the 1st of January, 1897, was 3,098, showing a net increase of 71 members during the year 1896. The number of new Fellows that joined the Society in 1896 was 207, which was the largest number of elections that had taken place in any year since 1877.

The total receipts of the Society for

1896 had amounted to £27,081 which was £123 more than the very successful year, 1895. The ordinary expenditure had amounted to £23,788 which was an increase of £327 over that of the year 1895. Besides this a sum of £2617 had been paid and charged to extraordinary expenditure, of which amount £2600 had been paid on account of the construction of the new house for ostriches and cranes. A further sum of £1000 had also been transferred to the Deposit Account, leaving a balance of £1066 to be carried forward for the benefit of the present year.

The usual scientific meetings had been held during the year 1896, and a large number of valuable communications had been received upon every branch of zoology. These had been published in the annual volume of 'Proceedings,' which contained 1,110 pages illustrated by 52 plates. Besides this, parts 1 and 2 of the 14th volume of the Society's quarto 'Transactions' had been published in 1896. A new edition of the List of Animals, containing a list of all the specimens of the vertebrated animals that had been received by the Society during the past twelve years, had been published and issued to the subscribers to the publications in November last. The 32d volume of the 'Zoological Record' (containing a summary of work done by zoologists all over the world in 1895), edited by Dr. David Sharp, F.R.S., had been published and issued to the subscribers in December last.

The library, containing upwards of 20,000 volumes, had been maintained in good order throughout the year, and had been much resorted to by working naturalists. A large number of accessions, both by gift and purchase, had been incorporated.

The number of visitors to the Gardens in 1896 was 665,004, being 322 less than the corresponding number in 1895. This slight decrease was easily accounted for by